

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRAZZA 00082 251125Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 /079 W

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R 251035Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 170

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CF

SUBJECT: NGOUABI ASSASSINATION TRIAL, JANUARY 16-19, 1978

1. SUMMARY: PROSECUTION EXPANDED INTERROGATIONS TO DEFENDANTS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN FINANCING AND "MASTERMINDING" ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN. 16 (DAY 14): COURT OFFICIALS SPENT MORNING VISITING SITES WHERE ASSASSINATION AND ITS PLANNING TOOK PLACE. WITNESS BAYA TOLD COURT THAT MOUNTSAKA HAD RECEIVED FROM HIM A CHECK FOR 250,000 FRANCS CFA (SLIGHTLY OVER US\$1,000), WHICH CHECK FOUND ITS WAY TO MOUNTSAKA'S GIRL FRIEND, MISS BABINGUI. PROSECUTION ELABORATED ON MASSAMBA-DEBAT'S REPORTED INTENTION TO NAME MOUNTSAKA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMY FOLLOWING SEIZURE OF POWER.

3. JAN. 17 (DAY 15): FOLLOWING BRIEF APPEARANCE BY KONDA, AT WHOSE HOME "COMMANDOS" HAD DONNED THEIR MILITARY GARB, PROSECUTION HEARD ACCOUNTANT SAMBA-DIA-KOUMBI AND ETIENNE KIKOUMBA.

PROSECUTION SAVAGELY ATTACKED LATTER, WHO WAS MEMBER OF MASSAMBA-

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PAGE 02 BRAZZA 00082 251125Z

DEBAT'S "PRAYER GROUP". KIKOUMBA SPOKE OF "REVELATIONS" WHICH HE HAD HAD FROM GOD, SAYING, INTER ALIA, THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD DIE, ANDRE HOMBESSA WANTED POWER, AND THAT HE, KIKOUMBA, WOULD DIE. PROSECUTOR OKOKO RIDICULED KIKOUMBA, SAYING, "IN WHAT LANGUAGE DOES GOD SPEAK TO YOU?", "IS HE FRENCH?", "IS HE KIND?".

4. JAN. 18 (DAY 16): COURT INTERROGATED DEFENDANTS KOUBA,

SISSOULOU AND DIAZENZA, OTHER MEMBERS OF MASSAMBA-DEBAT'S "PRAYER GROUP". ALSO HEARD WAS TARA-GANDZO, WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE GIVEN 50,000 FRANCS CFA (US\$200) TO ONTSOU, TO HAVE HIM ASSASSINATE NGOUABI. SEVERAL DEFENDANTS ALLEGED THAT THEY AND DECEASED ONTSOU HAD BEEN TORTURED DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY AND/OR WERE NOT GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE HEARING. FOLLOWING SESSION, GOCB ISSUED COMMUNIQUE RELATING TO EXPULSION OF FRENCH LAWYER, CHOUKROUN (BRAZZAVILLE 49). CONGOLESE DECLARATION FOCUSSED ON WHAT GOCB BELIEVES TO BE CHOUKROUN'S

IMPROPRIETY IN NOT HAVING CONTACTED CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO APPEARING AT COURT HOUSE.

5. JAN. 19 (DAY 17): LETTER WAS PRESENTED TO COURT BY LAZARE-MEKOYO, AFFIRMING FREQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN TARA-GANDZO AND PASCAL LISSOUBA. TARA-GANDZO HAD DENIED KNOWING LISSOUBA. DEFENDANT PROSPER GANDZION WAS HEARD. ALSO HEARD AS A WITNESS WAS CAPTAIN YVES MOTANDO-MONGO, CURRENTLY MILITARY LEADER IN POINTE-NOIRE. DEFENSE APPEALED FOR DISMISSAL OF CHARGES AGAINST PROSPER GANDZION. ACCUSED YVES M'FOUNA AND RAPHAEL NKALA WERE INTERROGATED.  
KATZEN

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## Message Attributes

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